

## Major Street System

There are several major radials serving the Mebane area. US 70 allows east-west access into and through Mebane, making it the only crosstown facility. NC 119 provides the only major north-south access for the area. Interstate 85 skirts the southern portion of the planning area, but its influence and service extends well into Mebane nevertheless. Figure 3 shows the existing major street system.

The street network is capable of serving existing travel demands from a capacity standpoint, but it does contain several system, operational and safety deficiencies. Currently NC 119 passes through Mebane along a very indirect and circuitous path. This is an undesirable situation for both the residents along this route and the motorists using NC 119.

The lack of a grade separation (bridge) over the Southern Railroad which bisects the town presents a traffic operations deficiency and a safety problem as well. A grade separation would reduce the number of potential train-motor vehicular conflicts and also would increase access for safety and emergency vehicles to all parts of the town.

Finally, there is some lack of connectivity in the street system. In most cases, traffic entering Mebane on a radial route and desiring to reach another radial must pass through the central area. There are virtually no circumferential routes, with the exception of Stagecoach Road connecting SR 1306 and SR 1921. Several streets deadend or stub out which, if extended, could improve traffic circulation in the area.

## Traffic Volume Trends

The average daily traffic volumes on the major streets for 1961, 1966, 1971, and 1976 are shown in Figure 3.

The traffic volume trends reinforce the economic and population trends discussed earlier. There has been a gradual but steady increase in travel in Mebane over the past fifteen years.